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UNCLAS GUATEMALA 001477

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [GT](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: TFUS01: REAGAN CONDOLENCES

1. Summary: The Embassy received condolence letters addressed to the Ambassador from President Oscar Berger Perdomo and former President (1986-90) and sitting Congressional Deputy Vinicio Cerezo regarding the passing of former President Reagan. The President, the Vice President, the Foreign Minister, and the Minister of Education also called to express their condolences. The diplomatic corps and several other Government officials signed Embassy condolence books. End Summary.

2. Unofficial English translations of the texts of both messages follow.

Text of Message from President Berger:

Allow me to express my condolences for the passing of Mister Ronald Reagan, former President of the United States of America, and permit me to ask you to extend our nation's condolences to your illustrious government and to the noble people of the United States of America.

Text of Message from Former President Cerezo:

Recently I became aware of the passing of Mister President Ronald Reagan, after a lengthy illness. I personally had the pleasure and honor to share very special moments in the history of our two countries and Central America with Mister President Reagan, and I always appreciated his sense of history and the role that the United States of America should play in the world, particularly his convictions regarding the greatness of American ideals, as an example for the rest of the world.

Surely on some occasions we might have had different points of view regarding issues of mutual interest, but I always perceived in his attitude that the philosophy that inspired his government would permit democratic leaders in the world to find common ground despite their differences, which convinced me then of the importance of trying to find points of convergence uniting our countries in mutual understanding.

This allows me to testify to the important role that Mister President Ronald Reagan played in guiding the foreign policy of the United States of America in difficult times and contributing to the solution of these problems; I always respected his ingenuity, his wisdom, and his gift as a statesman and for this I offer tribute to the memory of one of the great presidents of the United States and of the world. Allow me to offer my sincere condolences and ask you to send these sentiments to his family, and through the United States Government to the people of the United States of America.

3. The Embassy also received condolence letters from Education Minister Maria del Carmen Acena de Fuentes; and Carlos Ramiro Martinez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.

4. The Embassy provided two condolence books. One was located in the chancery and was signed by the diplomatic corps and other government officials. Among those who signed the condolence book in the chancery were the Ambassadors of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Germany, Japan, Spain, the Holy See, Switzerland, Nicaragua, Norway, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile; and the Chief of Mission for the OIM. The other book was placed in the American-Guatemala Institute and received notes from the general public.

HAMILTON